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EXPLANATION OF PLATE 323

Transverse section of *Picea canadensis* found in coal mine in Macon County, Missouri, $\times 150$.

BETTER HERBARIUM SPECIMENS.—Prof. J. Franklin Collins' article¹ under this title, advocating the use of sheets of sponge rubber as cushions in the plant press to equalize pressure and secure well-dried leaves and flowers borne on thick branches and stems or in close proximity to large fruits, calls to mind a very simple practice I have followed for several years which seems to offer certain advantages over the use of sponge rubber. It consists merely in inserting in each folder of such specimens, as the plants are put into the press, sheets of newspaper folded into appropriate shape and thickness and placed on the parts of the specimen that require special attention. These folded pieces of paper do not need even to approximate in thickness the thickness of the fruit or branch next which they are placed; two or three folds of paper are almost always sufficient, the flexibility of the drier sufficing to equalize the pressure; and they do not interfere at all with the proper drying of the specimen. They also assist in drying without contact, discoloration or deformation large folded fern fronds or leaves which overlap when the specimen is placed in its folder. A single piece or sheet of newspaper inside the folder is also helpful in keeping smooth compound leaves or delicate ones which tend to shrivel or inroll on the edges in drying. The principal advantages of this method are its entire freedom from expense and its greater adaptability to the requirements of individual specimens.—S. F. BLAKE, Bureau of Plant Industry, Washington, D. C.

¹ *RHODORA* **34**: 247–249. 1932.